



*St Paul's*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

*Minister:*  
**Rev. Martin Knight**  
currently unavailable

*Church Secretaries:*  
**Sue Eardley**

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# Order of Service

*Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2021*



*Welcome to St Paul's!*

*Please use 'T' on your hearing aid if you need to use the Hearing Loop.*

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This morning's service is being led by: **Bea Pollard**  
The Organ is played by: **Robert Cooper**

## Important notes:

- It is a joy to welcome you to this service!  
St Paul's URC has a **full Covid-19 Risk Assessment**, which is helping to keep everyone safe, so please follow the notices and advice you are given in church.
- Please continue to **maintain social distancing** where possible and we encourage people to **wash and sanitise their hands regularly**.
- The hymns and responses will continue to be in the **Order Sheet and on the TV, but feel free to pick up a Hymn book or Bible should you wish**.
- In line with the guidance from the URC, **we strongly recommend you continue to wear a mask indoors**, but we recognise this is now a matter of choice.
- **Offertory** – to reduce contact with physical notes and coins at this time, Standing Orders and bank transfers are preferred (please ask those who welcomed you at the door for more information), but there is also a labelled collection box at the exit, where you can place your offertory.
- We pray that you will know God's presence as we worship – in church, at home, online, in the garden, at work or school, and in all places.

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We extend a very warm welcome to you. If you do not attend a church elsewhere, we invite you to join regularly with us in our Sunday worship and other activities – see [www.stpaulsurc.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsurc.org.uk)

You are welcome to use the time before worship for quiet preparation, especially once the music begins. We light a candle at the start of the service to remind us all of Christ's message of peace.

The Reformed Church recognises God's Word as its supreme authority and you are asked to stand as the Bible is brought in at the start of worship, and again as the Bible is taken out after the blessing.

## **Welcome & Notices**

### **Call to Worship**

#### **Hymn: 114 Let all the world in every corner sing**

1 Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,  
"My God and King!"  
The heav'ns are not too high,  
His praise may thither fly;  
the earth is not too low,  
His praises there may grow.  
Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,  
"My God and King!"

2 Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,  
"My God and King!"  
The church with psalms must shout:  
no door can keep them out.  
But, above all, the heart  
must bear the longest part.  
Let all the world in ev'ery corner sing,  
"My God and King!"

### **Family talk to introduce Old Testament reading**

#### **Reading: Esther, Chapter 7, and Chapter 9: 20-22**

<sup>1</sup>So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. <sup>2</sup>On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther,

“What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.” <sup>3</sup> Then Queen Esther answered, “If I have won your favour, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. <sup>4</sup> For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.”

<sup>5</sup> Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, “Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?” <sup>6</sup> Esther said, “A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!” Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. <sup>7</sup> The king rose from the feast in wrath and went into the palace garden, but Haman stayed to beg his life from Queen Esther, for he saw that the king had determined to destroy him. <sup>8</sup> When the king returned from the palace garden to the banquet hall, Haman had thrown himself on the couch where Esther was reclining; and the king said, “Will he even assault the queen in my presence, in my own house?” As the words left the mouth of the king, they covered Haman’s face.

<sup>9</sup> Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, “Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman’s house, fifty cubits high.” And the king said, “Hang him on that.” <sup>10</sup> So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

<sup>20</sup> Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, <sup>21</sup> enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, <sup>22</sup> as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

## **Family Talk – Being Thankful**

### **Hymn 104 Praise my Soul the King of Heaven**

1 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
to his feet your tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
who like me his praise should sing?  
Praise Him, Praise Him  
Praise the everlasting King!

2 Praise him for his grace and favour  
to his people in distress.  
Praise him, still the same as ever,  
slow to chide, and swift to bless.  
Praise Him, Praise Him  
Glorious in his faithfulness!

3 Father-like he tends and spares us;  
well our feeble frame he knows.  
In his hand he gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes.  
Praise Him, Praise Him  
Widely as his mercy flows!

4 Frail as summer's flowers we flourish  
Blows the wind and it is gone  
nut whilt mortals rise and perish  
God endures unchanging on

Praise Him, Praise Him  
praise the high eternal one

5 Angels, help us to adore him;  
you behold him face to face.  
Sun and moon, bow down before him,  
dwellers all in time and space.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise with us the God of grace!

We bless each other and the Junior Church with the grace

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all,  
now and forever, Amen**

Junior church leave for their own activities.

**Reading: Mark 9 38-50** - Another Exorcist

<sup>38</sup> John said to him, "Teacher, we saw a man casting out demons in your name, and we forbade him, because he was not following us." <sup>39</sup> But Jesus said, "Do not forbid him; for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon after to speak evil of me. <sup>40</sup> For he that is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup> For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ, will by no means lose his reward.

**Temptations to Sin**

<sup>42</sup> "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin,<sup>[b]</sup> it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung round his neck and he were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup> And if your hand causes you to sin,<sup>[c]</sup> cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go to

hell,<sup>[d]</sup> to the unquenchable fire.<sup>[e]</sup> <sup>45</sup> And if your foot causes you to sin,<sup>[f]</sup> cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell.<sup>[g][h]</sup> <sup>47</sup> And if your eye causes you to sin,<sup>[i]</sup> pluck it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell,<sup>[j]</sup> <sup>48</sup> where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched. <sup>49</sup> For every one will be salted with fire.<sup>[k]</sup> <sup>50</sup> Salt is good; but if the salt has lost its saltness, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

## **Hymn: 95 God is Love, let Heav'n adore Him**

1 God is Love: let heav'n adore him;  
God is Love: let earth rejoice;  
let creation sing before him,  
and exalt him with one voice.  
He who laid the earth's foundation,  
he who spread the heav'ns above,  
he who breathes through all creation,  
he is Love, eternal Love.

2 God is Love: and is enfolding  
all the world in one embrace;  
his unfailing love is holding  
every child of every race.  
And when human hearts are breaking  
under sorrow's iron rod,  
that same sorrow, that same aching  
wings with pain the heart of God.

3 God is Love: and though with blindness  
sin afflicts and clouds the will,  
God's eternal loving-kindness

holds us fast and guides us still.  
Sin and death and hell shall never  
o'er us final triumph gain;  
God is Love, so Love for ever  
o'er the universe must reign.

**Sermon:** Dealing with stumbling blocks and avoiding millstones.

## **Prayers of confession and assurance of pardon**

### **Hymn 497: Give to me Lord a thankful heart**

Give to me, Lord, a thankful heart  
And a discerning mind;  
Give, as I play the Christians part,  
The strength to finish what I start  
And act on what I find.

When, in the rush of days, my will  
Is habit bound and slow,  
Help me to keep in vision, still,  
What love and power and peace can fill  
A life that trusts in you.

By your divine and urgent claim,  
And by your human face,  
Kindle our sinking hearts to flame,  
And as you teach the world your name  
Let it become your place.

Jesus, with all your church I long  
To see your kingdom come:  
Show me your way of righting wrong  
And turning sorrow into song  
Until you bring me home.

## **Intercessions**

### **Hymn 647: In Christ there is no east or West**

1 In Christ there is no east or west,  
in him no south or north,  
but one great fellowship of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.

2 In Him shall true hearts ev'rywhere  
their high communion find.  
His service is the golden cord  
close binding humankind.

3 Join hands, then, all the human race,  
whate'er your nation be.  
All who my Father's image bear  
are surely kin to me.

4 In Christ now meet both east and west,  
in him meet south and north.  
All Christlike souls are one in him  
throughout the whole wide earth.

## **Blessing**





# Damascus to Rome

## Life and Legacy of St. Paul

Discussion and Study groups based on a series of banners in St Paul's URC.

Music, Drama, Art, Discussion



Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October 7.30 Introduction to the banners.

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2.30 Paul's early history and conversion.

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November 7.30 Ananias and escape in a basket.

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2.30 Journeys with Barnabas

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November 7.30 The jail in Philippi

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2.30 Burning of the scrolls at Ephesus

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 7.30 The shipwreck

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2.30 Paul in Rome and his Letters.

Venue: St Paul's URC, Croham Park Avenue, CR2 7HF

Contact: [secretary@stpaulsurc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@stpaulsurc.org.uk)

You are welcome to come to all or individual sessions .

Sessions will be 60-75 minutes long.

# Information & Notices

*We extend a very warm welcome to you!*

## **United Prayer Time**

*for St Paul's and South Croydon United Church*

**Friday evenings at 7:30-8:00pm** 'Zoom' Meeting ID: 845 5391 2820

## **The Pauline**

*Copy date extended to today! Please send all contributions to Pat Granville-Overton [patgo123@aol.com](mailto:patgo123@aol.com)*

## **Harvest service - Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**

*Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October please bring gifts of non-perishable food and basic toiletries for the Purley Food Hub and night watch. The communion collection is also in aid of these causes.*

## **Croydon Families Nearly- New Sale 2<sup>nd</sup> October**

*We welcome local families selling preloved toys clothes and equipment for maternity babies and children. For more details contact [carshaltonfamiliesnns@gmail.com](mailto:carshaltonfamiliesnns@gmail.com)*

**Youth Council Table Top sale** -16<sup>th</sup> October – more details form Chris Dean

*For future events and activities please see our website  
[www.stpaulsurc.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsurc.org.uk)*



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